

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for determination of sharpness of a chopping unit including a chopping drum mounted for rotation in a bearing and carrying chopping blades which work against a counterblade mounted to a support, especially for the determination of the change in state of sharpness of the chopping blade between at least two points in time, comprising~~ A forage harvester with a chopping drum rotating about an axis and carrying a plurality of chopping blades, the forage harvester having means for feeding crop material across a counterblade mounted on a counterblade support and cooperating with the chopping blades to define a cutting gap and to cut the crop material into relatively short lengths as it passes across the gap, a sensor mounted at a protected location on one of the bottom of the counterblade and the rear of the counterblade and the counterblade support, the sensor operable to measure a parameter of oscillation of the counterblade, the sensor connected to a processing device which is operable to perform the steps of:
 - a. ~~making at least two measurements of the a characteristic parameter of an operating~~ oscillation induced in one of said chopping blade and counterblade;
 - b. comparing integrals ~~determining a ratio of fractions of said parameter of~~ oscillation at least two frequency bands of the measured signal or its maximum value ~~peak~~ for each of said two measurements, and;
 - c. ~~evaluating a change in said ratio~~ between said two measurements.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ A forage harvester, as defined in claim 1, wherein:
 - a. a first of said at least two measurements is made when said chopping blades are sharp and is followed by an analysis of ~~the fractions of~~ at least two frequency regions of the measured signal;
 - b. a second of said at least two measurements is made after a pre-selected interval determined by one of duration or revolutions of the chopping drum, that is greater than ~~or equal to~~ zero, and measurement

- analysis of ~~the fractions~~ of the same frequency regions as are in step (2a) of said measurement signal; and
- c. determining a reference value from analysis of said results of steps (2a) and (2b) by one of, forming a difference or a quotient, or by using a weighting function on the second measurement, recovered from the first measurement;
 - d. comparing said reference value determined in step (2c) with a selectable stipulated threshold value of deviation, with a return to step (2b) when this stipulated threshold value of deviation is fallen short of; and
 - e. triggering an event responsive to the comparison made in step (2d) when the stipulated threshold value of deviation is equaled or exceeded.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ A forage harvester as defined in claim 1 wherein said an analysis of said characteristic parameter of oscillation according to steps 1a through 1c occurs in the time or frequency region.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The method~~ A forage harvester as defined in claim 1 wherein said ~~characteristic parameter~~ of oscillation is an acceleration, an elongation or an acoustic pressure.
5. (Cancelled)